

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PHNOM 02614 01 OF 02 111148Z

15

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 NEA-09 IO-10

CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 OPR-01 SY-04 A-01 IGA-01

ACDA-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AGR-05 EB-07 /121 W

----- 106643

P R 111100Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9294

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL UDORN

USIA WASHDC

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

CGFMFPAC

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PHNOM 02614 01 OF 02 111148Z

CGUSARSUPTHAI

CINCPAC
CINCPACAF
CINCPACFLT
CDR USA CINCPAC SUPPORT GROUP FT SHAFTER HI
CNO
COMNAVINTCOM
COMSEVENTHFLT
COMUSMACTHAI
COMUSSAG
CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR
DIA WASHDC
III MAF
7/13 AF

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 2614

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR,MOPS, ECON, CB
SUBJ: KHMER REPORT -- FEBRUARY 11, 1975

GENERAL

1. THE KC DROVE THE FEBRUARY 5 MEKONG CONVOY BACK TO VIETNAMESE WATERS WITH HEAVY LOSSES, FORCING FANK TO STUDY STRONGER MEASURES TO OPEN THE LOWER MEKONG BEFORE SCHEDULING ANOTHER UP-RIVER CONVOY. THE OVERALL TACTICAL PICTURE IS LITTLE CHANGED ALTHOUGH THE THRID DIVISION REPORTS A HEAVY KILL SOUTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH. FEWER ROCKETS HAVE HIT PHNOM PENH OR ITS AIRPORT, BUT ONE ROUND LANDED IN A SCHOOOL KILLING AND INJURING MANY CHILDREN. FANK FINALLY CLEARED ENEMY FORCES FROM THE MEKONG'S EAST BANK ACROSS FROM THE CAPITAL. A NEW GOVERNMENT HAS YET TO EMERGE AND THE INTERNAL POLITICAL SCENE IS QUIET. FOREIGN EMBASSIES ARE REDUCING THE NUMBER OF THEIR DEPENDENTS AND NON-ESSENTIAL STAFF IN PHNOM PENH. SIHANOUK ARRIVED IN HANOI FOR TET, AS DID HIS FORMER SHADOW, IENG SARY.

POLITICAL (INTERNAL)

2. PRIVATE AND GOVERNMENT DAILIES HAVE APPEALED TO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PHNOM 02614 01 OF 02 111148Z

THE U.S. CONGRESS TO GRANT PRESIDENT FORD'S REQUEST FOR SUPPLEMENTAL AID TO CAMBODIA. MOST ARGUE THAT AMERICA'S RESPONSIBILITY AS FIGHT AGAINST COMMUNIST AGGRESSION. THE DAILIES SCORE AMERICAN LEGISLATIVE OPPONENTS OF INCREASED AID FOR "SEEKING PARTISAN POLITICAL GAINS" AND NOTE THAT U.S. LAWMAKERS WHO HAVE BEEN TO CAMBODIA ARE ACTIVELY PROMOTING MORE AID. THE U.S. PEOPLE, ONE DIALY CONFIDENTLY WRITES, DESPITE RECESSION AND THE ENERGY

CRISIS, WILL CONTINUE TO AID THOSE WHO ARE SUFFERING MORE THAN THEY ARE NOW AND WHO WILL SUFFER EVEN MORE WITHOUT INCREASED U.S. AID.

3. AS HE HAS DONE DURING PREVIOUS TIMES OF HEAVY MILITARY ACTIVITY NEAR THE CAPITAL, LON NOL HAS ISSUED A CIVIL DEFENSE MESSAGE URGING THE POPULATION TO COOPERATE WITH CIVIL DEFENSE OFFICIALS IN DIGGING TRENCHES, KEEPING WEAPONS AT THE READY, STAYING ALERT, ETC.. THE MESSAGE ALSO URGED CALM.

4. LEADERS OF CAMBODIA'S HALF A MILLION MOSLEMS MET FEBRUARY 9 AND APPEALED TO KHMER ON THE OTHER SIDE TO WORK TOWARDS THE OPENING OF NEGOTIATIONS. THEY ALSO ASKED MOSLEM COUNTRIES TO HELP GET TALKS STARTED. KHMER MOSLEM LEADER AND LON NOL ASSOCIATE BRIGADIER GENERAL LES KOSSEM READ THE RESOLUTION WHICH CONDEMNED ATROCITIES AGAINST KHMER MOSLEMS IN ZONES THE KC CONTROL. KOSSEM HIMSELF WAS UNINJURED WHEN A GRENADE EXPLODED NEAR HIS CAR WHILE HE WAS DRIVING HOME AFTER THE MEETING.

5. INTERIOR MINISTER EK PROEUNG, WHO LEFT CAMBODIA IN EARLY JANUARY AMID RUMORS OF HIS FALL FROM GRACE FOR BRIBERY IN GRANTING EXIT VISAS, RETURNED TO PHNOM PENH FEBRUARY 5. HIS FUTURE STATUS AS MINISTER IS UNCLEAR.

POLITICAL (EXTERNAL)

6. MOST EMBASSIES IN PHNOM PENH HAVE EVACUATED OR PLAN TO EVACUATE DEPENDENTS AND/OR UNESSENTIAL PERSONNEL. THE FRENCH EMBASSY HAS ASKED THAT ITS DEPENDENT WIVES AND CHILDREN LEAVE AND HAS CLOSED LYCEE DESCARTES FOR "AN EARLY EASTER VACATION" TO PERMIT THE LARGE NUMBER OF CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 PHNOM 02614 01 OF 02 111148Z

FRENCH TEACHERS IN THE CAPITAL TO HOLIDAY IN THE REGION

FOR THE NEAR FUTURE. COMMENT: THE FRENCH ARE THE LARGEST FOREIGN PRESENCE AND THEIR ACTIONS INFLUENCE KHMER CIRCLES. THE FRENCH HAVE BEEN MATTER-OF-FACT ABOUT THE NEED FOR TEMPORARY DEPARTURES OF THEIR NATIONALS AND THUS HAVE NOT CAUSED ANY STRONG REACTION AMONG THE KHMER.

WE HAVE ORDERED OUR HANDFUL OF VISITING DEPENDENT WIVES TO RETURN TO SAFEHAVEN TO ENCOURAGE OTHER MISSIONS FOR WHOM WE HAVE EVACUATION RESPONSIBILITIES TO CUT DOWN UNESSENTIAL PERSONNEL.

7. PRIME MINISTER LONG BORET APPEALED TO UN SECRETARY

GENERAL WALDHEIM IN THE WAKE OF A ROCKET ATTACK ON PHNOM PENH WHICH KILLED A SCORE OF SCHOOLCHILDREN AND INJURED MANY OTHERS. THE PRIME MINISTER ASKED WALDHEIM "TO ACT WITH UTMOST URGENCY, USING EVERY AVAILABLE MEANS TO ACCELERATE YOUR EFFORTS TO APPROACH THE POWERS INVOLVED TO PUT A STOP TO THESE CRIMINAL ACTS SO THAT PEACE, THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE UN, MAY BE RESTORED IN CAMBODIA."

GRUNK/FUNK

8. SIHANOUK AND ENTOURAGE ARRIVED IN HANOI FEBRUARY 9 TO SPEND HIS THIRD TET IN A ROW WITH HIS VIETNAMESE ALLIES. PHAM VAN DONG AND VO NGUYEN GIAP MET HIM AT AIRPORT CEREMONIES. IENG SARY ARRIVED FROM THE INTERIOR FEBRUARY 10 AS A GUEST OF FOREIGN MINISTER NGUYEN DUY TRINH. RADIO HANOI CURIOUSLY DID NOT LINK THE TWO VISITS AT ALL.

9. BEFORE LEAVING PEKING SIHANOUK, IN THREE STATEMENTS, TOOK AIM AT U.S. SENATORS, SCORED AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT IN CAMBODIA AND THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW U.S. WEAPONS INTO THE CAMBODIAN WAR. IN ONE, THE PRINCE CABLED SENATORS MANSFIELD, SPARKMAN, KENNEDY AND CONGRESSMAN ASPIN TO REAFFIRM THAT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GKR ARE IMPOSSIBLE, TO NOTE THAT GKR LEADERS REJECTED HIS OFFER TO LET THEM JOIN HIS SIDE AND TO CLAIM THAT GRUNK/FUNK ARE NOT COMMUNIST AND SEEK TO MAKE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 PHNOM 02614 01 OF 02 111148Z

CAMBODIA "A SOCIALIST KINGDOM LIKE SWEDEN." HE ALSO SAID HIS FORCES DO NOT SEEK TO MAKE THE U.S. LOSE FACE AND CLAIMED THAT THE U.S. HAS ALREADY WASTED MORE THAN 3 BILLION U.S. TAXPAYER DOLLARS AT A TIME OF AMERICAN INFLATION, RECESSION AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

10. SIHANOUK SEPARATELY ATTACKED THE U.S. FOR TAKING NEW "GENOCIDAL WAR" STEPS BY ASKING FOR MORE AID TO THE GKR; INCREASING AIR DELIVERIES OF ARMS FROM THAILAND AND SUPPLYING DEADLY CLUSTER BOMB UNITS (CBU-55'S).

11. THE KC IN-COUNTRY RADIO BROADCAST AN ELABORATE AND EXAGGERATED ROUND-UP OF KC JANUARY GAINS, CLAIMING THAT PHNOM PENH IS ISOLATED FROM THE REST OF CAMBODIA AND FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD BECAUSE "ALL ROAD AND WATER TRANSPORTATION ROUTES ARE BLOCKED AND AIR TRAFFIC IS EXPOSED TO GREAT DIFFICULTIES". THE ENEMY,

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PHNOM 02614 02 OF 02 111207Z

12

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 NEA-09 IO-10

CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 OPR-01 SY-04 A-01 IGA-01

ACDA-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AGR-05 EB-07 /121 W

----- 106940

P R 111100Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9295

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL UDORN

USIA WASHDC

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

CGFMFPAC

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PHNOM 02614 02 OF 02 111207Z

CGUSARSUPTHAI
CINCPAC
CINCPACAF
CINCPACFLT
CDR USA CINCPAC SUPPORT GROUP FT SHAFTER HI
CNO
COMNAVINTCOM
COMSEVENTHFLT
COMUSMACTHAI
COMUSSAG
CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR
DIA WASHDC
III MAF
7/13 AF

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 2614

THE BROADCAST CLAIMS, "CANNOT ESCAPE TOTAL ANNIHILATION ..."

12. IN-COUNTRY CLANDESTINE RADIO HAS ALSO ISSUED A SERIES OF APPEALS TO VARIOUS GROUPS IN PHNOM PENH. A FEBRUARY 4 APPEAL URGED A POPULAR UPRISING AT THIS "LONG-AWAITED MOMENT" AND CALLED FOR STRIKES, DEMONSTRATIONS, AND ASSASSINATIONS.

ECONOMIC

13. ON FEBRUARY 9, GKR'S RICE STOCKS IN PHNOM PENH TOTALLED 20,000 METRIC TONS OR A 36 DAYS' SUPPLY AT THE OFFICIAL DISTRIBUTION LEVEL OF 545 TONS PER DAY. OF THESE STOCKS, 8,000 M/T WERE PL-480 RICE AND THE BALANCE BATTAMBANG RICE. AVERAGE DAILY DISTRIBUTION IN JANUARY WAS 575 TONS. SO FAR THIS MONTH THE DAILY AVERAGE HAS DECLINED TO 310 TONS, PARTLY BECAUSE SOME U.S. RICE ON THE FREE MARKET WAS SOLD AT PRICES LOWER THAN THE OFFICIAL PRICE FOR BATTAMBANG RICE. THE GKR IS REVIEWING PLANS TO SET A SINGLE PRICE FOR ALL RICE IN GOVERNMENT HANDS.

14. PRICES MOVED UP SHARPLY DURING THE PAST WEEK FOR A NUMBER OF MAJOR FOOD ITEMS IN PHNOM PENH RETAIL MARKETS. IMPORTED PL-480 RICE WAS UP BY 43 PERCENT; PORK INCREASED 25 PERCENT; FRESH WATER FISH 22 PERCENT; ORANGES 79 PERCENT;
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PHNOM 02614 02 OF 02 111207Z

AND BEEF AND CHICKEN 12 PERCENT. A FEW VEGETABLES SHOWED MODEST DECLINES, BUT MOST WERE UP BY 15 -20 PERCENT. CAULIFLOWER MORE THAN DOUBLED IN PRICE DURING THE WEEK, AMID REPORTS FROM AREAS SURROUNDING PHNOM PENH THAT FARMERS WERE SELLING THEIR CROPS SHORT IN ANTICIPATION OF POSSIBLE INSURGENT RAIDS. HOWEVER, PRE-CHINESE NEW

YEAR HOLIDAY BUYING WAS PROBABLY THE MAJOR FACTOR FOR THE UPSWING IN FOOD PRICES. NON-FOOD PRICES WERE RELATIVELY UNCHANGED. THE BLACK MARKET EXCHANGE RATE CLOSED AT 1,720 RIELS PER DOLLAR, DOWN SLIGHTLY FROM 1,750 AT THE BEGINNING OF THE WEEK. THE OFFICIAL EXCHANGE RATE REMAINED UNCHANGED AT 1,650 RIELS PER DOLLAR. THE PRICE GOLD INCREASED FROM 164 TO 173 DOLLARS PER TROY OUNCE.

15. THREE TUGS AND THREE BARGES ARE STANDING BY IN KOMPONG CHHNANG AWAITING THEIR KHMER NAVY ESCORT TO ARRIVE FROM PHNOM PENH. THREE ENEMY BARRICADES ON THE RIVER NEED TO BE REMOVED BEFORE THE US/AID-CHARTERED FLEET SAILS.

16. A FEBRUARY 5 MEKONG CONVOY OF FOUR TUGS AND TWO AMMO BARGES MET DISASTER ON THE WAY TO PHNOM PENH WHEN THREE TUGS HIT MINES AND SANK. THE REMAINING TUG PULLED ITS AMMO BARGE BACK TO THE VIETNAMESE BORDER AND KHMER NAVY CRAFT NOSED THE SECOND AMMO BARGE BACK TO SAFETY. NO MEKONG CONVOYS HAVE ARRIVED SINCE JANUARY 31. FANK POSITIONS ON THE MEKONG REMAINED UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE. ON FEBRUARY 5 THE KC TOOK PREK YUON ON ROUTE 1 HALFWAY TO NEAK LUONG. FANK LOST 67 MEN OF THE REMNANTS OF TWO UNDERSTRENGTH BATALIONS HOLDING THE GARRISON. THE KC SHARPLY ATTACKED FANK POSITIONS ON PEAM REANG ISLAND SOUTH OF BANAM AND OVERRAN A COMPANY-SIZED POSITION. BOTH SIDES TOOK MODERATE LOSSES.

17. THE THIRD DIVISION, WITH ARMOR AND AIR SUPPORT, BROKE A KC

ATTACK IN THEIR AREA SOUTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH FEBRUARY 8. THE THIRD CLAIMS OVER 300 ENEMY KILLED AND MUCH ENEMY EQUIPMENT SEIZED. TWO YOUNG KC PRISONERS SAID THEY HAD BEEN SENT TO THE FRONT WITHOUT TRAINING AND HAD LEARNED TO FIRE THEIR AK-47'S ON THE ROAD FROM TAKEO TO THE PHNOM PENH FRONT.

18. ON THE EAST BANK OF THE MEKONG ACROSS FROM PHNOM PENH, THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 PHNOM 02614 02 OF 02 111207Z

PARA BRIGADE AND THE 84TH BRIGADE LINKED UP, ELIMINATING A WELL DUG-IN ENEMY SALIENT THE KC HAND ESTABLISHED ON NEW YEAR'S DAY. NORTHEAST OF THE CAPITAL THE 28TH BRIGADE HAS HALTED OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS TO CONSERVE AMMUNITION.

19. NORTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH ALONG ROUTE 5, THE SEVENTH DIVISION AND REINFORCING ELEMENTS HAVE REPORTED SOME PROGRESS IN THIER EFFORT TO LINK UP WITH THE ISOLATED 45TH BRIGADE AT PHNOM BASET.

20. ROCKET ATTACKS ON PHNOM PENH DECLINED BUT ONE TRAGIC ROCKET ATTACK ON A PRIMARY SCHOOL KILLED AND INJURED MANY SCHOOL-CHILDREN. COUNTER-ROCKET OPERATIONS IN THE TUOL LEAP AREA NORTH OF POCHENTONG HAVE FORCED A REDUCTION IN THE FREQUENCY

AND ACCURACY OF ATTACKS BY FIRE ON THE CAPITAL'S AIRPORT.

21. FORCES FROM THE DAS KANCHOR ENCLAVE REACHED KOMPONG SPEU ON ROUTE 4 WITH MINOR OPPOSITION FEBRUARY 4. THE SAME DAY A MULTI-BATTALION ARMOR-SUPPORTED FORCE RAIDED FROM KOMPONG SPEU NORTH OF ROUTE 4 BEHIND KC FORCES FACING THE WESTERN DEFENSES OF PHNOM PENH. THE FANK RAIDERS KILLED 37, CAPTURED 3 AND REPORTED KNOCKING OUT A KC 105MM HOWITZER WITH THEIR OWN ARTILLERY. KOMPONG SPEU POPULAR FORCES KILLED 20 KC IN FENDING OFF AN ATTACK ALSO ON FEBRUARY 4.

22. THE KC KEPT THE PRESSURE ON FANK'S MANPOWER-DEPLETED PROVINCIAL CAPITALS. SVAY RIENG HAD SOME ACTIVITY. KOMPONG THOM AND PREY VENG HAD SHARP FIGHTING WITH THREE POSITIONS LOST AT PREY VENG. KAMPOT SAV HEAVY FIGHTING WHICH CAUSED DEFENDERS TO WITHDRAW SOME POSITIONS TO STRONGER SECONDARY DEFENSIVE LINES BUT THE SITUATION WAS STABLE AS OF FEBRUARY 9.

23. IN MR-III MAUNG RUSSEI, SOUTHEAST OF BATTAMBANG, EXPERIENCED DAILY ATTACKS AND ATTACKS BY FIRE. AT SIEM REAP IN NEIGHBORING MR-IV FANK REOPENED ROUTE 6 ON FEBRUARY 6 AND REPORTED OVER 100 KC KILLED IN THE OPERATION.
DEAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KHMER REPORT, POLITICAL SUMMARIES, COMBAT OPERATIONS, COMBAT CASUALTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PHNOM02614
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750049-0341
From: PHNOM PENH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750254/aaaabvyn.tel
Line Count: 409
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 8
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 MAY 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <19 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KHMER REPORT -- FEBRUARY 11, 1975 GENERAL
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, MOPS, ECON, CB
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006